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GARBAGE GAZETTE

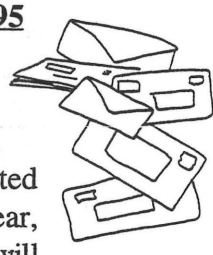


Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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September 1995

Office Paper Recovery Lags Behind Demand



There is great news about the printing and writing paper industry. In 1990, this industry represented nearly 30% of all U.S. paper production, but only had a wastepaper utilization rate of 6%. This year, ten U.S. mills using sorted office waste paper are scheduled to come on line. Most of them will produce deinked market pulp. By the turn of the century, it has been estimated that even if only a portion of the announced northeast mills are built, the annual office waste paper demand in the northeast will reach over one million tons--double what it is now. Much of this increased investment in mill capacity can be attributed to the growing demand created by President Clinton's Executive Order #12873 and programs like the National Recycling Coalitions' "Buy Recycled Business Alliance" and the U.S. Conference of Mayors' "Buy Recycled" campaign. These programs and increased requests for post-consumer recycled content printing and writing paper by private businesses, state agencies and consumers have all worked to send demand into an upward spiral.

We all know, however, for recycling to work, the cycle needs to be complete. Collection of OWP is not adequate to meet anticipated demand for this raw material. Projections indicate that if current trends continue, OWP collection will not keep pace with the projected capacity of new mills using sorted office paper as a feedstock to make new paper. One study predicts that 67% of all office paper generated in the U.S. would need to be recovered to meet the projected demand by the year 2000. The current recovery rate is only 36%. Paper market specialists have predicted that if mills cannot acquire the feedstock that they require, they may close their doors.

Many businesses have extremely successful programs to recycle their high grade office paper. This item has been a mandatory recyclable for all businesses, regardless of size, since January 1, 1991. Unfortunately, some smaller to mid-size businesses are not in compliance with OWP recycling requirements because they are not aware that the law applied to them or they experienced difficulty in finding a collection service at a reasonable rate due to the small amount of paper that they generate.

DEP is hopeful that by combining efforts, some small businesses may be able to recycle their OWP at more reasonable rates. The DEP Recycling Program is planning to help develop pilot programs to assist smaller offices and businesses to increase their recovery of OWP, both successfully and economically. Favorable market conditions make this an opportune time to initiate this type of program. Today, the price for waste paper is a moving target. However, a snapshot of the prices for office waste paper in August 1995 (there are some indications of a decline in September) showed the following:

Paper Grade	Loose-at Generator's Dock ("Fiber Market News" August 25, 1995)	Paper & Board Mill Purchase Prices ("Paper Recycler" August 1995)
Sorted Office Paper ¹	\$50-\$55/ton	\$230-\$240/ton
Sorted White Ledger	\$90-\$100/ton	\$310-\$310/ton

DEP plans to enlist cooperation and assistance from other organizations including: local recycling coordinators, chambers of commerce, rehabilitation groups, paper mills, post-offices, banks, etc. For example, the Connecticut Business Environmental Council (CBEC), has worked with DEP to develop a program to provide free waste audits and recycling help to companies with fewer than 100 employees.

¹ This grade includes approximately 60% white ledger and 40% colored ledger - with no more than 5% groundwood grades

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If you are aware of any programs that are cooperatively marketing or otherwise successfully recycling materials from small and medium-sized businesses, please let us know. We are also interested in ideas for recovering OWP from the residential sector. To share your small business recycling experiences with DEP, please call either Judy Belaval or Meg Enkler at (860) 424-3365. For technical assistance in setting up a recycling program in your office, business, or facility call Judy or Meg at the number listed above or Simone Mason, CBEC Chairperson at (203) 624-6671 ext 321.

Chicago Board of Trade Recyclables Exchange User Seminar

Scheduled to be launched on October 17, 1995, the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) Recyclables Exchange will be a centralized marketplace for recyclable materials. It is designed to provide participants with reliable market conditions, lower transactions costs and increased profits. Unlike the market for "pit" traded commodities at the CBOT, the CBOT Recyclables Exchange will be a centralized bulletin board for recovered materials. Buyers and sellers of glass, PET and HDPE plastic, paper, or any other recyclable material can log on to this computerized Exchange to post a listing or browse the screens for market information. The Exchange includes a means for verifying material quality using standardized inspection, sampling and testing procedures and offers an established dispute resolution process for resolving disagreements between buyers and sellers.

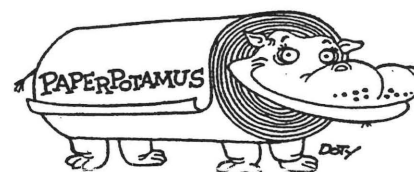
An orientation and detailed training session on the CBOT Recyclables Exchange will be held this fall at a free, three hour seminar in Boston on October 11 at the New England Aquarium from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. At the workshop, project representatives will provide both an overview of the Exchange and in depth training with various system features. Workshop attendees will learn first hand of the expanded marketing opportunities and cost-savings that the Exchange offers. Because of limited space for the workshop, early registration is encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact Chris Benjamin, the RAC/CBOT Project Outreach Coordinator at (703)683-9025. This same program is also being offered at other times and locations throughout the U.S.

Paperpotamus Captures Mixed Paper and More In Stamford

The "Paperpotamus", a friendly, happy hippopotamus, serves as the mascot and logo for Stamford's recycling program. This weighty mascot was actually conceived of 20 years ago when it was commissioned by Andrew Mark, who was then Stamford's recycling coordinator. Recently updated with a more modern and friendly look, paperpotamus is seen all over the city on stickers, flyers, tax bill inserts and truck decals. The logo makeover coincided with the startup of a citywide pilot project to collect mixed paper which began in March 1995. The program provides monthly curbside pickup for junk mail, phone books, magazines, catalogues and corrugated cardboard.

The pilot phase of the program lasted 4 months. Its success and popularity prompted city officials to make it a permanent part of the city's recycling services. Participation in this voluntary program is estimated at 50-60% of all households. The mixed paper is baled by City Carting and then sent to the Marcal Company in New Jersey or other mixed paper markets. Residential surveys have indicated great public support for this voluntary program. DEP congratulates the City of Stamford on its efforts to recover an ever increasing portion of its waste stream.

FAX ALERT- The fax number of the DEP Waste Bureau, Planning & Standards Division has been changed! It is now (860) 424-4060.



STAMFORD RECYCLES

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